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26 May 1982

Executive Officer, DDS&T

Room 6E45 Headquarters

For the report to the DDCI.

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Falklands War

FBIS continues its 24-hour watch of Argentine radios and press agencies as well as British media. BBC radio and television have been the source of statements by senior British officials, including regular press briefings on the military situation by the Defense Ministry. Other than occasional statements by Foreign Minister Costa Mendez, Argentine pronouncements on the situation have consisted mainly of Joint Staff communiques and comments attributed to "military sources." FBIS reception of Argentine broadcasts at its Paraguay Bureau has continued to be excellent. Argentine private radio broadcasters have joined to form a "National Sovereignty Network" for news and information. Many Argentine stations are broadcasting around-the-clock. ☐

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A propaganda radio was set up by the British Defense Ministry, entitled "Radio South Atlantic." The Ministry took over a BBC transmitter in the Ascension Islands for this purpose, with two broadcasts daily in Spanish, apparently aimed at the Falklands. ☐

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An additional FBIS editor and a teletypist have been assigned to the Paraguay Bureau from the Panama Bureau, as well as a senior editor from FBIS Headquarters, to augment the staff covering the Argentine side of the conflict. ☐

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Reformist Voices in USSR

One of FBIS' functions is to watch for subtle changes in material appearing in the Soviet media that might foreshadow future developments. In this connection, some reformist themes have appeared in the Soviet media during the current period of maneuvering in preparation for eventual succession to Brezhnev. A notable example was an article appearing in a Soviet intellectual journal that, in the guise of analyzing developments in the PRC, amounts to a powerful critique of authoritarian regimes in general and an implicit call for reform of the Soviet system after Brezhnev. FBIS first called attention to the article in a "Press Note," translated it in full for the DAILY REPORT, and examined the implications in an Analysis Report. ☐

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FBIS overseas bureaus are often called upon for urgent assistance to U.S. Government components. On 16 April the U.S. Mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna phoned the FBIS bureau chief for assistance in translating an official Soviet document that sets out rules governing the export of nuclear materials from the USSR. The U.S. Mission had no Russian translating capability so FBIS texted the materials. ☐

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Hydropower Information

Information for FBIS' JPRS publications is selected by staff linguists in the Production Group in accordance with classified requirements. Frequently these selections will hit a responsive cord in the government with the result that additional copies or production runs are requested. This week Eugene K. Lawson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and the Pacific for the Department of Commerce, asked for additional copies of the JPRS report on the Hongshui River which, he said, contained a "wealth of information" on Chinese plans useful in "structuring our future cooperative activities with the Chinese under the U.S.-PRC Hydropower Protocol." ☐

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